

July 16, 2009

Roger and Melinda Holtegaard
Blue Horizon Dairy Farm
1320 75th St. NE
Rochester, MN 55906

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Re: CapX2020 High Voltage Power Lines Affecting Dairy Farms

We are one of the many dairy families that are extremely concerned about your proposed power lines and the devastating affect they will have on our family, employees and animals.

We have an extensive history on this family farm. We were chosen by the University of MN as "Farm family of the year" as well as hosting "Breakfast on the Farm" for our community. My two oldest daughters have represented Olmsted County and the dairy industry as Dairy Princesses. We are very involved in 4-H and our community. We have 5 children, who have lived and worked on our farm. After graduating from NBSU in Environmental Resource Management, our son, Nathan returned to farm with his dad. Courtney is an oncology nurse (and will begin graduate school this fall as a cancer specialist in nursing) and Portia just graduated with her biology degree (and is currently working on the farm while waiting for future graduate schooling). Annabelle and Marjorie are in high school and work on our farm daily as well.

Now we are told that decisions have been made that will affect our future, our health and our animals. We are concerned that decisions are being made to come through areas where we live and work 24 hours a day. Would you live and work under such conditions? Would you expose your children to such conditions? Your current decision to disregard the health and well-being of an American family farm and people is disturbing. Who will be accountable for the negative financial, health, emotional and physical impact the decision will have on our business?

Please use common sense and use the route where there are no family dairy operations. Roger's father and mother purchased this original farm after he served his time in World War 2. We have continued to live, work and expand this farm, please reconsider your hazardous decisions. With all of the struggles currently facing the American Family Dairy farmer, you should be able to do better for the backbone of this nation! As an elementary school teacher, I encourage my students to be involved and have a say. Let us have a say in such vital matters.

Sincerely,

Roger, Melinda, Courtney, Nathan, Portia, Annabelle and Marjorie Holtegaard

CC: Strength Hillstrom/Xcel Energy, Thompson Dairyland Power, Amy Kloubuchar, Andy Weib, Dept. of Agriculture, State of MN Pollution Control, President Obama, ATFranken

I-233-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-233-002

The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-233-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-233-001 and I-233-002.